

Make the corporations, banks and Pentagon pay

Climate reparations!

The Global Climate Strike of Sept. 20-27 calls for an unflinching examination of the roots of the climate crisis. Despite climate-denier claims, massive scientific evidence shows that the release of greenhouse gas emissions, mainly the burning of fossil fuels, has so destabilized the earth’s self-regulating system that humanity is now undergoing a cascade of unnatural catastrophes.

In the past few years, we’ve seen historic levels of destruction and death in the Western Hemisphere — recently in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the eastern coast of the U.S. Every day we hear

Editorial

of some new climate tragedy elsewhere on the globe — from fires devouring the rainforests in the Amazon and Central Africa, to more intense storms and flooding, to glaciers rapidly melting, to 41 percent of global insect species declining over the past decade, which threatens “catastrophic consequences for both the planet’s ecosystems and for the survival of [humanity],” according to the journal Biological Conservation. (tinyurl.com/yxkhbbqc)

But while this is a global crisis, it does not have to become an irreversible global

catastrophe. There is evidence that headway can be made against this dire situation, which is caused not by “human beings” in general, but by an unsustainable global economic system: capitalism, the private ownership and production of anything that can be sold for private profit, where the bottom line beats out all other considerations.

Cuba and China lead the way; capitalist U.S. holds back progress

In 2016, socialist Cuba, with its steadfast commitment to environmental health, including years of effort in reforestation, was recognized by the World

Wildlife Fund as the only country in the world to achieve sustainable development. (tinyurl.com/yyh6nqxs)

In addition, even Forbes business magazine this year had to admit: “China is set to become the world’s renewable energy superpower.” People’s China has demonstrated commitment, affirmed in 2014, to stopping the climate crisis. One example of many is that within four years it cut coal-plant air pollution on average by 32 percent in affected cities. (Workers World, April 23)

Meanwhile, the U.S. has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement,

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On Sept. 15, 48,000 GM workers went on strike. Above, stamping plant in Parma, Ohio.



New York City, Sept. 14. Seventy people were arrested protesting ICE.

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no existe un planeta "B"

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Buffalo shows solidarity with El Paso

Im/migrant rights supporters held a rally and march in Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 7 in solidarity with El Paso Firme, taking place in El Paso, Texas, on the same day. The National Action Against White Supremacy was called by the Border Network for Human Rights, RAICES Texas, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and allies.

Activists from Buffalo AntiWar, Erie County Green Party, International Action Center Buffalo and Workers World Party came out to join hands with victims of the racist massacre in El Paso and all who are targeted by Trump’s white supremacist, anti-migrant and anti-people-of-color, fascist rhetoric. The demonstrators included not only activists from Western New York, but also those from Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York City and Philadelphia who were in Buffalo to attend the Workers World Party Marxism School.

As the march took off chanting, “El Paso to Buffalo, white supremacy’s got to go,” “I-C-E, you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide,” and “never again is now, close the camps down,” bystanders joined in and drivers in cars, trucks and buses honked their agreement.

— Report by WW Buffalo bureau; photo: Ellie Dorritie



70 arrested demanding ‘close the camps!’



Hundreds of people demanding the closing of detention camps on the U.S.-Mexico border joined in an energetic protest that began at the New York Public Library in Manhattan on Sept. 14. Protesters marched to Microsoft’s Fifth Avenue store where they sat in the entrance demanding that the company stop doing business with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. When the activists moved onto Fifth Avenue, police arrested more than 70 people. A coalition of organizations called the “Close the Camps” action.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan

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The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Supreme Court decision hits migrants

By Martha Grevatt

Again and again, the federal government continues to deny im/migrants the most elementary human rights. On Sept. 11, seven of the nine unelected, appointed-for-life “justices” on the U.S. Supreme Court again sided with the Trump administration against asylum seekers. This seven included Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer, two of the four members of the so-called “liberal wing.”

The court provisionally upheld a July 16 order, promulgated by U.S. Attorney General William Barr and the Department of Homeland Security, to deny entry to asylum seekers who travel through a third country— mainly Central Americans who pass through Guatemala and/or Mexico. Now they must first apply for and be denied asylum in those countries before they can apply for asylum here.

The American Civil Liberties Union represented migrant organizations which sued to have the order overturned. On July 24, Judge Jon S. Tigar of the U.S. District Court for Northern California and Judge Timothy Kelly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued contradictory rulings. Judge Tigar issued an injunction ordering that all asylum requests continue to be accepted without the new stipulations and said his ruling applied countrywide. Judge Kelly ruled that the racist rule could stand.

In August, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals narrowed enforcement of Judge Tigar’s injunction to those states in the Ninth Circuit. On Sept. 9, Judge Tigar reissued his injunction for the whole country, citing “administrability issues” that would result if different rules applied to different regions.

Normally the case would have to make its way through the lower courts before it got to SCOTUS. Solicitor General Noel Francisco made an “emergency” appeal to the high court, seeking to limit Tigar’s order even further. The alleged emergency, by which Francisco’s appeal bypassed the standard progression through the courts, was a potential new “surge of asylum-seekers.” (New York Times, Sept. 11)

The one-paragraph, unsigned majority decision stayed Judge Tigar’s decision to

block Trump’s order, as well as the Ninth Circuit Decision allowing Tigar’s injunction to stand within the proscribed area.

Central American migrants targeted

The specific aim of this new xenophobic ruling, following the SCOTUS decision to allow Pentagon funds to be diverted to building Trump’s border wall, is to keep Hondurans, Salvadorans and Guatemalans out. In this fiscal year alone, Customs and Border Patrol has arrested nearly 420,000 asylum seekers from those three countries. They include whole families and unaccompanied children, now languishing in concentration camps.

Central Americans are coming here to escape state and paramilitary terror in their home countries, a product of U.S. foreign policy under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Now, even if someone is denied asylum in Mexico or Guatemala, they still have to wait there for their U.S. asylum cases to be heard here. Conditions on either side of the border are deplorable.

Dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor pointed out that the rule in question is “probably illegal.” The current U.S. asylum statute “generally provides that any noncitizen ‘physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States ... may apply for asylum,’ §1158(a)(1). And unlike the rule, the District Court explained, the statute provides narrow, carefully calibrated exceptions to asylum eligibility.”

However, it is not unprecedented for SCOTUS to make a blatantly racist decision concerning im/migrants. In 1889, the court upheld the Scott Act, an amendment to the Chinese Exclusion Act barring legal Chinese residents from reentering the U.S. after leaving the country temporarily. From its creation in 1789, the Supreme Court has made all kinds of reactionary decisions protecting the property of the rich.

The high court’s stay of Judge Tigar’s injunction is provisional while the lawsuits make their way through each court level. The ACLU is “hopeful we’ll prevail at the end of the day. The lives of thousands of families are at stake.” The key to winning in the courts is, as always, building a powerful grassroots movement to challenge the oppressive status quo. □

In struggle over Safehouse Opioid users’ lives at stake

By Princess Harmony Philadelphia

For decades, Philadelphia has been known as a heroin haven, with heroin of such high quality that people moved there for the sole purpose of having access to it. In recent years, the opioid epidemic ravaged the city while, over time, a particular section of the city, Kensington, became known as an open air market for heroin.

The quality of Kensington’s heroin decreased as illicit and experimental fentanyl analogues — such as acetylfentanyl, butyrfentanyl and carfentanil, which are dozens to thousands of times stronger than morphine — increased and the open air market for heroin became a site of overwhelming death.

Nevertheless, this hasn’t stopped people from swarming to Philadelphia seeking the most legendary of fixes. With that, it’s not a surprise that from sidewalks to buses, from convenience store bathrooms to the basements and bedrooms of their parents and partners, people are overdosing fatally and non-fatally in record numbers.

But Philadelphia isn’t alone. The city of Vancouver had its own open air drug market: the Downtown Eastside. With overdose deaths in Vancouver rising, Insite — the first supervised consumption site in North America — opened. The facility operates almost automatically: People come in with their drugs, they wait for their number to be called so they can go back to their booth, they set up and start using. If they seem to be overdosing, the staff bring out oxygen tanks and Narcan (naloxone), people stabilize, and they go on with their day.

It’s an easygoing process that allows the facility to get to know its patients. When they’re ready to finally quit using, they go to the connected facility called Onsite to get treatment.

Roadblock to Safehouse

This is one of the paths that the United States could take to deal with its opioid epidemic, and this is the path that the city of Philadelphia has chosen. It wishes to open Safehouse as a way to tackle its

opioid epidemic, alongside increasing access to medicines like methadone, buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Bunavail, Zubsolv) and naltrexone (ReVia, Vivitrol). However, there are roadblocks along the way.

The first major one was a lawsuit against Safehouse filed by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Attorney wants the court to declare Safehouse illegal under the Controlled Substances Act, which states that it is illegal to “manage or control any place, whether permanently or temporarily, either as an owner, lessee, agent, employee, occupant, or mortgagee, and knowingly and intentionally rent, lease, profit from, or make available for use, with or without compensation, the place for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, storing, distributing, or using a controlled substance.”

In response to the claim that Safehouse would violate the CSA, Safehouse shot back that the facility was unlike anything that the creators of the CSA and other related codes had in mind. It would not be a crack house nor a rave party. Instead it would be a critical medical facility that is unregulated by the CSA.

According to Safehouse’s response, the services it would provide are clean injection equipment, Narcan access, primary care, HIV and hepatitis C treatment, and wound care. It would also provide immediate access to drug treatment, such as methadone and buprenorphine. In their words, Safehouse would “bridge the short, but critical, gap — a matter of seconds to minutes — between the time a person receives a sterile syringe and other clean injection equipment and the need for immediate access to naloxone [Narcan] and other medical treatment to reverse an overdose.”

On Sept. 5 a court hearing was held to determine whether or not Safehouse, by existing, would violate the Controlled Substances Act. This hearing was intended to determine whether or not it was illegal to run a safe consumption site. The courtroom was packed with supporters and opponents of the facility. Outside, around 100 people met and rallied in support of the facility.

Mayor Jim Kenney, District Attorney Larry Krasner and Councilwoman Helen Gym were among the community leaders who spoke, followed by organizers from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, ACT UP Philadelphia, VOCAL-NY and other groups were present.

Samantha Kerr of the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition said, “We have as much right to live as the Sackler family, as the Trump family.” And she is right. The Safehouse facility, if it is allowed to open, will be the first of several facilities like it in the United States. The fate of all safe consumption sites in the U.S. is tied to the decision the judge makes — whenever that is.

At the Insite safe consumption facility, 1,466 overdose interventions took place in the previous year with zero overdose deaths. Without Insite, thousands of people could die. There would be no hope of recovery or survival beyond that point. The dead cannot recover.

Our lives — the lives of opioid users — matter. Imagine if Safehouse had been opened at the beginning of the opioid epidemic and not in the middle. Thousands of people would still be alive. □

Evict ICE, protest Greyhound

Around 50 people gathered at the Philadelphia Immigration and Customs Enforcement office on Sept. 14 to demand that Pomegranate Real Estate evict ICE from its office building. This was the first event of the newly formed Philly Workers’ Solidarity Network, which launched a campaign to evict ICE and protest all corporate collaborators with ICE and all concentration camps.

Pomegranate CEO Michael Willner holds leadership positions in organizations for young people across the Philadelphia region, yet he continues to profit from leasing 33,000 square feet of prime office space to one of the most aggressive, child-abusing ICE offices in the country. Demonstrators raised this connection by holding up signs of children and other migrants killed while in ICE concentration camps and reading off the names of many of the victims of ICE.

While rallying at the ICE office, hundreds of people signed petitions with demands to evict ICE and for Pomegranate to pay back their profits to migrant organizations as reparations for their collaboration with ICE. Demonstrators marched through Chinatown, receiving a welcoming cheer by City Councilor Helen Gym and attendees of the Asian-Americans United’s Mid-Autumn festival in Chinatown.

The march ended at the Greyhound Terminal at 1001 Filbert Street where demonstrators marched inside the facility to demand that Greyhound kick ICE off their buses. Participants



in the action passed out hundreds of “Know your rights” flyers to Greyhound passengers and rallied outside the building, making the connections among Greyhound, ICE and companies like Aramark, which profit from mass incarceration of migrants.

The Philly Workers’ Solidarity Committee will continue to build its campaign to evict ICE, get ICE off Greyhound buses and connect the struggle against ICE concentration camps to the struggle to abolish prisons and mass incarceration of working-class people and people of color in the USA. People can sign the petition to evict ICE at bit.ly/PhillyEvictICE.

— Report by Scott Williams; photo by Joe Piette

GM strikers ‘shut it down!’

By Martha Grevatt
Parma, Ohio

On Sept. 15, one minute before midnight EDT, production ground to a halt at all General Motors facilities across the U.S.

Workers inside the plants walked out, and midnight shift workers joined the picket line. Loud chants of “Shut it down” or “United we stand, divided we fall” filled the night air outside some plants.

Earlier that day about 200 United Auto Workers local presidents and bargaining chairs voted unanimously to stop work if no agreement was reached. A UAW press release announced that “the membership is going on strike at midnight Sunday to secure: fair wages, affordable health-care, our share of profits, job security, a defined path to permanent seniority for temps.”

Spirits on the line were strong outside the GM stamping plant in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland. The plant bargaining chair explained that a key issue was the company demanding workers pay thousands more per year for health care: “If a robot breaks, they pay to fix it. They work us like robots. They break us, they should pay to fix us.”

Hoping to win the strike in the field of



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

GM strikers picket outside Parma, Ohio, stamping plant, Sept. 16.

public opinion, GM issued a statement saying they “presented a strong offer that improves wages, benefits and grows U.S. jobs in substantive ways.” (clickondetroit.com, Sept. 15) However, the small pay increases the company was willing

to grant would be more than gobbled up by the dramatic increase in worker health care costs.

Another sticking point is GM’s plans for two assembly plants and two transmission plants; last year workers learned

those plants would be closed. In the company’s offer, the Warren, Mich., and the Baltimore, Md., transmission plants would remain closed while only a small number of jobs would open up in the plants in Lordstown, Ohio, and Detroit-Hamtramck, Mich. Lordstown Assembly is currently idled.

A third major issue, which is also big for Ford and Fiat Chrysler UAW members, is the large number of workers classified as temporary employees. They are paid substantially less, have fewer benefits, work unpredictable schedules, cannot build seniority, and are subject to arbitrary discipline and firings without recourse through the grievance procedure.

There is currently no proposed contract language giving temps a path to permanent, full-time status. GM is not giving any ground on this critical issue. Striking UAW members are fighting to eliminate what is essentially a third tier of workers. They want “no more tiers” and are pushing for second tier “in progression” workers — hired after October 2007 — to have parity with “traditional” workers.

The strikers told this writer they would be out “as long as it takes.”

Grevatt is a UAW retiree who worked at Fiat Chrysler 31 years.

Battery Wharf Hotel workers strike

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

Sept. 15 — All 75 union workers walked off the job Sept. 5 at the luxury, 150-room Battery Wharf Hotel located on Boston Harbor. Migrants make up a majority of the workers, who are represented by UNITE HERE Local 26.

Westmont Hospitality Group, the hotel owners, have refused to negotiate since March 2018. The workers are fed up with the threats of wage and benefit cuts and the racism, sexism, and lack of dignity and respect for workers on the job.

The owners are trying to take away job security, affordable family health care and yearly wage increases. They propose eliminating retirement and pension contributions, doing away with the right to a fair schedule and freezing wages for five years. They threaten to increase the workload for housekeepers and do away with workers’ protections regarding subcontracting should the hotel be sold.

Particularly insulting to the striking workers is Battery Wharf’s refusal to agree to language fighting discrimination and offering job security for im/migrants. This language has been in citywide hotel contracts for years.

The hotel industry has a long history of discrimination in hiring African Americans.

Battery Wharf owners stopped participating in a citywide diversity task force after hotels in the Boston area had to agree to work on it and on a hotel diversity committee. In 2006, UNITE HERE Local 26 fought for language in the contract which states that employers “shall take affirmative steps to further diversify the workforce to properly reflect the Boston area, including African-American workers.”

Striking Battery Wharf hotel workers are united and strong. They are inspired by the example of their victorious union comrades at Marriott hotels last year who

struck seven hotels in Boston for 46 days led by UNITE HERE Local 26.

Many other Boston hotels were forced to match the benefits won as a result of this victory at Marriott, which include: significant increases of wages and hotels’ contribution to pensions; paid parental leave; a guarantee for immigrants who lose their protected status that their job will be waiting for them if they regain the right to work within five years; enhanced accommodations for pregnant workers; more stable schedules; an alert system for housekeepers in case of a sexual assault; and a registry of guests accused of sexual misconduct at the hotel.

Workers World spoke with Ed Childs, a retired chief shop steward for UNITE HERE Local 26 and leader of the historic 2016 strike of Harvard University dining hall workers, which was a springboard for the subsequent hotel strikes. Childs said, “The company is trying to bust the union out of this place. They have eliminated half the old contract, never mind putting in place what the Marriott contract has. They forced the workers to go on strike. In this period the atmosphere of the ruling class is ripe for union busting and the Battery Wharf workers are courageously fighting back.”

Unions and community groups have joined the workers’ picket line, including Ironworkers Local 7; Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3650; National Grid workers, Service Employees union (SEIU) 32BJ; Boston Teachers Union, UAW; Harvard and Tufts University union; International Workers’ Solidarity Network; and student activists. Teamsters Local 25 pledged to honor the picket line.

On Sept. 7, anti-fascist protesters, who were confronting the reactionary “Straight Pride” parade in downtown Boston, marched to the hotel 50 strong and joined the cheering strikers.

Genevieve Lechat, an AFSCME member and organizer of this contingent, said, “Anti-fascist organizers were delighted to show solidarity with the strikers and immediately agreed to open the program they were planning to the call to march to the line after the rally. A huge, spirited group of Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+ youth and union members joined the line and stayed with the hotel workers into the

evening.

“Many have also returned to the line regularly, especially members of Pride@Work, the LGBTQ+ caucus of the AFL-CIO, who have organized subsequent mobilizations to the picket line and meal deliveries to the strikers. Everyone recognizes the intention to take rights away from working-class people is the same for fascists, cops and bosses.” □

Dahlonega, Ga. 600 cops defend 24 white supremacists from 200 anti-racists



PHOTO: STEVE EBERHARDT

A white supremacist rally that occupied one side of the town square in Dahlonega, Ga., was attended by about two dozen people waving U.S. flags and chanting “USA” in response to Nazi and alt-right speakers.

Some 200 anti-racists, mostly youths, drowned out the fascist rhetoric with their own chants of resistance and unity yelled across the town square. Metal

barricades and some 600 police officers from multiple state, county and local agencies, including scores of riot-geared cops all in black, backed up by overhead drones and a tank close by, protected the hate-mongers. But they failed to deter the multinational protesters from delivering their message of class solidarity.

— Report by Dianne Mathiowetz

Indicting the Pentagon as climate criminal

By Sara Flounders

Why is the vast global movement that focuses on the imminent crisis facing the planet — the climate crisis — so consistently steered away from any attention to the largest and most dangerous polluter in the world?

Even if today every single person stopped driving all of the more than 128 million cars on U.S. roads in this country, it would take two years to withhold the 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases emitted by the U.S. military since the beginning of the 2001 global War on Terror. This is according to a detailed study by the Watson Institute, “Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change and the Costs of War.” (tinyurl.com/y4vn5aq2)

In response to the climate crisis, there is a great deal of attention, publicity and lecturing about small steps that individual people and entire communities can take to recycle waste, drive less, use solar panels, switch to less polluting products and save energy. All of this is good education. But all too often these individual solutions blame and shame people who may not have access to newer or more energy-efficient technologies.

The emphasis on individual action is also an intentional distraction away from attention to the profit system and the main enforcer of capitalist property relations — the entire U.S. military apparatus represented by the Pentagon.

The Watson Institute’s report outlines the ways in which the Pentagon is “the world’s largest institutional user of petroleum and correspondingly, the single largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world.” The Pentagon’s deadly emissions are greater than the emissions of entire industrialized nations.

In an effort to gain U.S. compliance, all U.S. military operations worldwide and within the U.S. have been exempt from measurement and agreements on reduction of emissions since the Kyoto Climate Accords negotiations in 1998. To hammer in place this evasion of responsibility, that year the U.S. Congress authorized a provision explicitly guaranteeing U.S. military exemption from any international climate agreement.

This complete U.S. military exemption includes 800 U.S. bases in more than 130 countries around the world, 6,000 facilities in the U.S., aircraft carriers, jet aircraft and the U.S. armed forces totaling 2 million people. Also excluded are thousands of weapons tests and all multilateral operations, such as the giant U.S.-commanded NATO military alliance and Africom, the U.S. military alliance now blanketing Africa. The provision also exempts U.S./U.N.-sanctioned activities of “peacekeeping” and “humanitarian relief.”

The U.S. Department of Defense’s use of all types of fuel comes to 350,000 barrels a day or 100 million barrels a year. The fuel is consumed by more than 28,000 armored vehicles, 60,000 Humvees, almost 2,000 attack helicopters, more than 3,000 jet fighters and bombers, and vast fleets of Navy vessels, according to the detailed version of the Watson Institute report. (tinyurl.com/y4npyu8u)

The real cost of U.S. wars

Why was it so important to the Pentagon and the U.S. ruling class to get its military omitted from all climate calculations?

If the U.S. global military footprint were included, that would focus world attention with even starker numbers on the main culprit of world pollution. U.S. military strategists, claiming secrecy and



PHOTO: ECO WATCH

The Pentagon routinely dumps its waste around the world, as it did here in Greenland.

security, sought to block this discussion completely in all international forums.

Even without the Pentagon’s enormous carbon impact, the U.S. is the all-time largest emitter of greenhouse gas on the planet. This is true over decades of accumulated industrial pollution and today, according to British-based Carbon Brief.

But measuring only carbon emissions understates the drastic level of devastation caused by the U.S. war machine over time. That measurement omits the centuries of impact, massive dislocations and waves of migration caused by U.S. outright wars, economic blockades and “regime change” efforts.

The polluting Wall Street wars-for-profit have spread radioactive waste from depleted uranium weapons and caused environmental devastation from defoliants that last for tens of thousands of years. Laying waste to fertile fields, the wars poison the air and water and create genetic damage for generations. The resulting economic dislocations rip apart whole regions and create millions of desperate migrants.

The continuing toll of U.S. wars still poisons Vietnam and all of Southeast Asia, Yugoslavia and all of Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Forty years of U.S. war in Afghanistan and 28 years of war and economic sanctions on Iraq and Syria have dislocated millions in Central and Western Asia. Seven months of U.S. bombing totally destroyed Libya and spread U.S. militarism through Africa. Years of secret wars in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras brought ongoing damage to Central America.

The Pentagon war machine is not only the greatest danger to the planet due to its environmental destruction. It is a vast institution, a global machine of terror and repression. It is the enforcer of Wall Street’s capitalist rule. It is a mechanism built in a desperate attempt to lock in place archaic property relations and private ownership of all sources of wealth that could easily provide, if equitably reorganized and redistributed, a healthy sustainable life for all.

Corporate funding limits climate demands

Each yearly Climate Change Conference held under the auspices of the United Nations has gathered thousands of international participants, scientists and specialists in many fields. The climate summits have grown into the largest annual international meeting in the world.

But time and again the United States has blocked any binding agreement. The U.S. refused to participate in many meetings, preferring “observer status” as a

way to derail agreements. Washington delegates have also rejected the very concept of financial assistance to developing countries dealing with the impact of climate change.

Finally in 2015, the Obama administration agreed to participate in the Paris climate meeting, on the condition that only a nonbinding agreement would be put forward. The European Union and 197 countries, including the U.S., eventually signed the Climate Agreement.

But in 2017 the Trump administration announced U.S. withdrawal from the limited, nonbinding Paris Agreement, declaring that it put U.S. corporations at a disadvantage. The U.S. is the only country to withdraw at this point.

Outside these summits, tens of thousands who understand the impending crisis gather in large climate protests. But the role of the U.S. military as the greatest polluter and climate criminal is seldom raised, and the U.S. role in frustrating climate agreements or concrete goals is hardly a focus.

These demonstrations have been limited by the role of corporate-funded non-governmental organizations such as 350.org and Avaaz. The result is that only vague generalities, utopian hopes and toothless accords are raised as goals. The demonstrations become mega-media events that quickly fade from memory.

Corporate-funded organizations were prominent in the 2014 People’s Climate March in New York City. Hundreds of thousands gathered before the U.N. Climate Change meeting in what was described as

the largest climate march in history. The march had 1,500 endorsing organizations, while countless politicians and celebrities endorsed or spoke, and there were parallel actions across the U.S.

But this historic march raised no demands. Described as “not a protest,” it was “an invitation to change everything.” Instead, this outpouring quickly ebbed away and changed nothing.

Now, increasingly, the climate movement is radicalizing, especially among young people, who feel the greatest urgency for their future and are the most willing to break with past cautions. There is a search for deeper answers as never-ending U.S. war combines with the desperate, unresolved environmental crisis. The movement has grown sharply anti-capitalist at its base, while the leadership finds it harder and harder to paper over deep economic and social contradictions with vague slogans.

More radical demands

At the 2014 Climate March, there was a determined contingent of Indigenous activists and people from countries targeted or colonized by U.S. imperialism, along with antiwar activists. This contingent did raise the Pentagon’s endless wars as the most dangerous form of global devastation.

This year it is a step forward that the mass actions planned for Sept. 20-27 are called as “Climate Strikes,” evoking the power of workers’ strikes to shut down the machinery of oppression, profit and pollution.

Reinforcing this step forward is also the People’s Mobilization to Stop the U.S. War Machine (PeoplesMobe.org) holding a Sept. 22 demonstration at Herald Square in New York City. Though without the vast social media reach of the well-funded 350.org, the People’s Mobilization is raising the real danger of U.S. war for the entire planet in a far more focused manner.

At this time of climate crisis it is urgent that revolutionary organizations put forth demands that focus on the chaotic failure of capitalism and corporate domination. Demands must include the need to address environmental racism and the need for reparations paid by Big Oil and the very corporations that have reaped billions in profits from uprooting millions of people and making their lives miserable.

And it is time to indict and target the greatest climate criminal — the greatest war criminal — the U.S. Pentagon. □



PHOTO: NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

For her 100th birthday Frances Crowe marches against Pentagon polluters.

Climate crisis poses life-and-death threat to people with disabilities

By Workers World New York City Disabilities bureau

“It’s time to recognize climate change as a disability rights issue” was the headline for an article by Tiffany Yu, founder of DiversABILITY. (Rooted in Rights, Dec. 11, 2017) DiversABILITY is a movement and organization dedicated to raising disability awareness and reshaping conceptions of ability.

When Yu was nine years old, a car accident killed her father and left her with brachial plexus palsy — a loss of movement or weakness in the arm due to damage to the nerves that send signals from the spine to the arm. After the bones in her leg healed, she had to relearn how to

write (she was originally right-handed). “We—the disability community—are the ones who need to be at the forefront of this movement,” Yu wrote. “When it comes down to it, climate justice is about people and climate change is a human rights issue. Climate change impacts vulnerable communities like mine the most. Opportunity and justice cannot be an afterthought. ... “Global temperatures have been increasing. Sixteen of the 17 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001. Extreme heat events cause more deaths annually in the U.S. than all other extreme weather events combined. “Some members of the disability community are especially vulnerable to extreme heat events due to increased

sensitivity to keeping our body temperatures cool enough. For example, people with multiple sclerosis have been shown to experience greater pain and fatigue on hot days, and some people with spinal cord injuries don’t have the ability to sweat as a means of cooling down.” The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on climate change and the rights of people with disabilities on July 12. The resolution calls on governments to adopt a disability-inclusive approach when taking action to address climate change. The U.S. government still refuses to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Approximately one in five people in the United States has a disability!

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina exposed numerous problems that impacted people with disabilities during the climate-related disaster: not enough wheelchair-accessible transportation; short supplies of prescription medication and medical equipment like oxygen; lack of evacuation shelters with appropriate facilities; power outages that affect medical equipment, air conditioning and elevators; and a shortage of staff trained to meet the various needs of disabled people. The National Council on Disability estimated that 155,000 people with disabilities were living in three of the Gulf Coast cities hardest hit by Katrina. Almost half of the deaths from Katrina were people over age 75 (less than 6 percent of the population in the area), with over 10 percent of total deaths occurring in nursing homes.

Socioeconomic factors create problems

In a 2016 article, “Climate Change, Extreme Heat, and People with Disabilities,” Alex Ghenis, a policy and research specialist at the World Institute on Disability and a person with a spinal cord injury disability, warned: “Socioeconomic factors, such as disproportionate rates of poverty and substandard housing for people with disabilities, create other problems; notably lower air-conditioner ownership or, if housing has air conditioning, not enough money to run it regularly. ...

“[The] dislocation caused by rising sea levels, water shortages and climate-related conflicts [will create according to] The International Organization for Migration [approximately] over 100,000 ‘climate migrants’ by 2050 and many millions more will be forced to leave their homes, [disparately impacting] people with disabilities [because of] a lack of accessible transportation or housing.” (tinyurl.com/y3cppgum)

There are many examples of how heat waves affect people with disabilities. Edward Yudelovich of the Workers World New York City Disabilities bureau, a person with a psychological emotional disability, was misdiagnosed with schizophrenia and treated with antipsychotic drugs for five years when he was in his twenties. After another psychiatrist corrected the misdiagnosis and weaned him off the addictive medication, he was horrified to learn from his comrades in the disability rights movement that antipsychotic drugs can impair the body’s ability to regulate temperature, so that during a heat wave, such drugs can literally “fry the brain!”

Mary Kaessinger, a People’s MTA activist with a mobility disability—multiple sclerosis for the past 40 years—says: “I can take the heat until it reaches 75° F. If it gets any warmer, then I start to have trouble breathing. I put on a cooling vest which has four ice packs in it. That keeps my body temperature cool. I also wear a cooling hat which I soak in cold water for 20 minutes.

“I am also more susceptible to falling out of my scooter because the heat makes me much weaker. When it gets to 85° F, the only recourse is staying home if you can afford air conditioning or hanging out at your local air-conditioned grocery store or air-conditioned public facility like the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

“The enforced poverty for disabled people in which we are cornered into remaining poor in order to protect our health insurance and benefits makes us more vulnerable from the climate crisis. Contrast this with Socialist Cuba and China which put disabled people first when responding to climate-caused emergencies!” □

United fight Labor and climate activism

By Sue Davis

The prevailing myths about U.S. workers and the organized labor movement—that labor and climate action are in conflict, that jobs are more important than the environment—will be in the trash bin of history after the Sept. 20 Global Climate Strike.

U.S. labor is coming forward to support climate protection policies in their unions representing a wide range of industries from coast to coast.

The Blue-Green Alliance is a joint project of eight of the largest national unions—including the United Steelworkers, the Communication Workers, the Service Employees, the American Federation of Teachers and three craft unions—and six activist environmental organizations—including the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, Environmental Defense Action Fund and the League of Conservation Voters.

This strategic alliance, which issued a statement June 24 titled “Solidarity for Climate Action,” will turn out thousands upon thousands of their members all across the country.

The Labor Network for Sustainability is devoted to seeing “a transition to a society that is ecologically sustainable and economically just.” Its purpose is to “advance a climate action program that will help the labor movement be a leading force for a just transition to a climate-safe and equitable economy.” LNS, which strongly supports the Green New Deal, aims to be labor’s voice at the table in order to shape it in the interests of the working class. (labor4sustainability.org)

Meanwhile, a new Data for Progress poll shows that 62 percent of workers support the Green New Deal, with only 22 percent opposed. A study based on data from national surveys showed that “union members are on average more likely than the general population to display pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors.” To further this, Data for Progress has created a toolkit to help allies and supporters identify and promote pro-union climate policies. (The Guardian, Sept. 10)



Musicians Local 802 play during 2014 mass climate march in New York City.

Many state AFL-CIO federations, like that in Maine, and statewide unions, like the Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers, and city labor councils like that in San Francisco have passed resolutions in support of the strike and the GND.

Truly global support for GCS

Support for the Global Climate Strike is indeed global. The Public Services International, which represents over 30 million workers from 152 countries, is calling on unions around the world to join and take “strike action where possible,” wrote PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli in the Sept. 12 op-ed in Common Dreams.

Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, representing 207 million workers worldwide, told Common Dreams: “Where [striking is] not possible, [workers] will take stop work action and other forms of protest.”

Bill McKibben, noted environmental activist, reported in the Sept. 3 YES that major trade unions in South Africa and Germany are telling their members to take the day off. “This is actually a pivotal time for the labor movement to be in collaboration with other advocates and activists against corporations like Exxon and Chevron, which have lied to all of us,” said immigrant rights activist Thanu Yakupitiyage in the same article.

Legions of Amazon workers have announced that they are planning a walkout to protest Amazon’s environmental policies and press the capitalist mega-monopoly to reduce its carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. Even Ben and Jerry’s is closing its headquarters in Vermont.

As PSI head Rosa Pavanelli stressed, “To build the political will needed to change the system, we must be bolder than ever.” □

How climate disaster imp

The following excerpts are from a statement the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network prepared for its summit meeting in Whitakers, N.C., on Oct. 16-17, 2015. To read the entire statement, visit tinyurl.com/y34agngt/.



Humans are responsible for the greenhouse gases that come from fossil fuels used in transportation, agriculture, industry and power generation, as well as carbon and methane from deforestation, livestock production and solid waste disposal.

Underdeveloped communities exposed to racial and class exploitation will be more impacted by climate change than wealthy communities. This makes climate change an environmental justice issue. The injustice of disproportionate impact is magnified by the fact that people with fewer material resources are less responsible for producing greenhouse gases than wealthy people.

The climate change movement is composed mostly of privileged people who didn’t object to fossil fuels as long as they were not directly impacted. They didn’t step in to protect people living next to refineries, pipelines and chemical plants; they didn’t fight for workers exposed daily to injuries, disabling dusts, carcinogens, and periodically to catastrophic and fatal accidents, refinery explosions, coal mine collapses. Now that fossil fuels threaten everybody,

Reforestation: Cuba leads the way

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

Before 1492, what is today the United States had about 1 billion acres of forests. From 1600 on, at least 286 million acres were destroyed. In a 1763 letter, Benjamin Franklin wrote, “Cleared land absorbs more heat and melts snow quicker.”

Because of colonialism and the growth of capitalist extractive corporations, forests that formerly drew carbon back down were decimated. This deforestation is a part of the crisis of global warming — in addition to the massive increase of carbon in the atmosphere. The world needs reforestation.

Cuba is doing it!

Cuban reforestation began in the Sierra del Rosario region in 1968; with support from the revolutionary government, local villagers decided on a plan.

The area had been denuded during Spanish colonization, over 400 years from 1492 to 1898. The invaders cut down the original forest to raise livestock and set up plantations. The indigenous trees — cedar, ebony, mahogany, majagua and others — no longer grew there. By the mid-1800s, the soil was degraded; deforestation continued into the early 1900s for cattle grazing and hog raising. Impoverished rural people worked for ranchers or burned trees to make charcoal. By the time of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, nothing was left except isolated palm trees.

Socialist Cuba saw the need to implement social and economic projects in rural areas. The Sierra del Rosario Plan was one of those projects. The reforestation plan, launched along with establishment of community services, would improve soil quality and provide important work for people in the area.

Founded in 1971, Las Terrazas was named for the terrace planting system, and included an initial 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres) in the eastern part of the mountain range. Scientists assisted in determining which Indigenous trees to plant, and the villagers initially planted 3,000 mahogany, hibiscus and teak trees. Within eight years, people in the valley had planted 6 million trees.

The Cuban government stated that

fruit trees should be planted among the other species to feed the people. Some 80 percent of the food eaten in Las Terrazas is locally grown. All of it is organic, including bananas, pumpkins, grapefruit, avocados, oranges, mandarins, mamey — and all is grown between the forest trees.

Las Terrazas was built to provide electricity and piped water, with day care centers, schools, family doctors, dentists, a clinic lab and a pharmacy. The project improved conditions for local families, who were joined by scientific personnel, public service providers and artists.

People raise livestock for meat, and a lake was constructed to farm fish, including trout, tilapia and other species. The village later added an ecomuseum, a cinema and a discotheque.

Indigenous ecosystems restored

Indigenous mammals, plants, birds and insects, many of which had become endangered under centuries of environmental exploitation during colonialism, began to return — and Indigenous ecosystems began to be restored. Today Cuba has 131 species of birds, 26 of which are indigenous to Cuba; the rest pass through on migratory routes to their nesting areas. There are 33 reptilian species, including 17 snakes and 11 lizards. Some of the world’s smallest mammal species live in Cuba — the endangered Cuban solenodon, the jutia conga and jutia carabalí — have returned to the forest.

In 1985, UNESCO recognized the reforestation project as the Biosphere Reserve, and added 25,000 hectares (61,776 acres) of Sierra del Rosario to the original 5,000. Since then, UNESCO has recognized five more biospheres in Cuba.

During the Special Period, after the loss of trade with the USSR and Cuba’s other former socialist trading partners, combined with the U.S. tightening its blockade, the revolutionary government supported ecological and cultural tourism and doubled the focus on sustainability. Tourism profits in Las Terrazas were used to build a library. Also in the Special Period, growing organic became mandatory.

The Buenavista Coffee Plantation was restored from the ruins of one of the colonial coffee plantations. Locals planted



At Rio San Juan in Las Terrazas biosphere, Cuba.

WW PHOTO: S. HEDGECOKE

coffee trees and began to harvest shade-grown Arabica Las Terrazas coffee. Honey is also locally produced.

Las Terrazas was the first model for reforestation in Cuba; it has inspired another 11 reforestation projects. The other 11 communities meet periodically at Las Terrazas to exchange indigenous seeds to promote biodiversity and trade food produce. UNESCO has recognized Cuba’s reforestation programs for their principles of incorporating scientific knowledge and traditional practices to strengthen community involvement in strategic planning. To date more than 7 million indigenous trees have been planted, and a great amount of biodiversity has been recovered.

U.S. Solidarity delegation visits Las Terrazas

The 50th Venceremos Brigade visited Las Terrazas July 28. We met Ida, our local guide, at the village, and then she took us to the Rio San Juan. The biosphere is a popular vacation site for workers in Havana. The river San Juan is fed by sulfur springs and is regarded as a mineral treatment. We joined many Cubans swimming in the river and enjoying the forests on their national holidays.

The three green gardens of Las Terrazas support the schools and community as the primary food source. Villagers grow fruits, flowers and plants with medicinal uses in herbal infusions and vitamin supplements. Kindergarten children have their own garden where they learn to grow food, which they eat at lunch and snack times. The children even learn to make herbal infusions with various flowers, such as chamomile, and guava.

The Ecological Research Center belongs to Cuba’s Academy of Science. Specialists search for species of flora and fauna in the forest; twice a week they also work with local students to teach them to recognize the plants as part of the scientific work. Even small children know how to recognize six or seven of the local indigenous plants.

Ida told the Brigadistas, “When I tell you it was mandatory to grow everything we needed, it was not because someone came and told us to do it. We need to do it.” And, she added, “We grow organic all the time.”

Las Terrazas uses some solar power and plans to acquire more when possible. The biosphere has regulations for conservation; the local Committee for the Defense of the Revolution makes all decisions regarding sustainability, such as how much housing is sustainable for the project.

Our guide spoke of the impact of global warming on growing seasons and local flora. Some varieties of plants have now disappeared from the forest due to the heat; others, such as mangoes, are in season earlier and longer. This July was the warmest ever recorded in the world. Ida told us the past average year-round temperature in Cuba was 24° to 25° Celsius (75° to 77°F); this year they had a new high of 39.8°C (103.6°F).

Ida said when she was a child, the rains were so intense that children were forced to stay home from school sometimes for a week or two. Now there are seasonal rains that might last only three days. She stressed that from the beginning, the reforestation plan was focused on the environment.

In the last couple of years, the villagers began to organize work to clean plastic and trash out of the river where tourists and Cubans have littered. Children are invited to join the cleanup; in this way, their environmental consciousness is developed from a young age. The community is currently discussing the need to limit the number of tourists in order to protect the environment.

Stopping global warming requires a rapid transition away from the use of fossil fuels. It also requires reforestation. Socialist Cuba — revolutionary Cuba — is a model for fighting global warming.

Hedgecoke was a member of the 50th Venceremos Brigade to Cuba.

Impacts oppressed peoples

a segment of the privileged classes realizes that we have to do something. This movement is important; however, it will not succeed if it only involves people of privilege. Major change comes from the bottom up, more than from the top down.

In the case of reducing greenhouse gases, change requires fundamental restructuring of the global economy and abandonment of production of fossil fuels that are currently counted as part of the assets of global energy companies.

The North Carolina Environmental Justice Network was created to help communities experiencing injustice to transform power relationships and to support their self-determination. Our base communities face immediate threats of polluted homes, lack of basic amenities that the government provides to others, exploitative working conditions, lack of access to services and racist treatment in housing, education and policing.

Although these communities will be disproportionately impacted by climate change over generations, we need to address the everyday concerns that

people face right now. Slowing greenhouse emissions cannot occur without a mass movement, and it must be a movement that puts justice first.

We are not fighting for a new order that reduces greenhouse emissions but leaves other injustices in place.

Crimes of the corporate-government alliance extend far beyond greenhouse emissions and climate change. Climate change is a symptom of global capitalism, just like fever is a symptom of infection. Treating climate change as the fundamental issue is like practicing medicine in the era before germs were identified as the causes of infection. Because fossil fuel is the lifeblood of the global economy, the climate justice movement must engage with the infection — capitalism — and not just the fever, climate change. Treating the symptoms will not prevent disaster. To treat the infection we have to build a movement that is inclusive, which requires putting racial and economic justice and self-determination first. Our job is to bring this environmental justice perspective to our allies and the communities we serve. □

Justice for Brandon Lee

Protect human rights defenders!

This is a slightly edited version of a statement issued by BAYAN-USA, an alliance of 26 progressive Filipino organizations in the U.S. representing students, scholars, women, workers, artists and youth.

BAYAN condemns in the strongest possible terms the shooting of another human rights defender, Brandon Lee, of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA). The U.S.-Duterte regime’s Oplan Kapanatagan, like other counterinsurgency programs patterned after [those run by] the U.S. State Department, continues to target and harm, if not murder, activists in the legal and aboveground mass movement.

Brandon’s rigor in social investigation and community immersion makes him one of the most reliable journalists of Northern Dispatch. His activist journalism encourages a deep and broad understanding of the lives of the most productive yet oppressed people in the Cordilleras and beyond. His profound appreciation of the role of peasants in forging a better society led him to learn and actually take on paralegal work with

the Ifugao Peasant Movement (IPM).

On August 6, Brandon was shot in front of his house. In his years as an activist, Brandon and his family have lived with the people of the community as they play an active role in the struggle for people’s rights. ...

The current spate of political [shootings and] killings in the Philippines follows a methodical approach:

First, Duterte unilaterally cancelled the Peace Talks with the National Democratic Front despite earlier identifying peace as his preferred presidential legacy. The U.S. State Department-controlled Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) tried to sabotage the 2016-2017 Peace Talks. Duterte’s shutting down of the [current] Peace Talks was his signal to U.S. leaders that the business of puppetry in the Philippine bureaucracy is on as usual.

The second step the Duterte regime took was to consolidate dependence on U.S. imperialism and the Philippine military. [Duterte] did this by suddenly declaring an entity — the CPP-NPA, which he once recognized as a rival government to forge peace with — as a “terrorist” group.

With the arbitrary labeling of a revolutionary underground organization like the CPP-NPA as terrorist, the next step to quelling the growing resistance, mounted by the people within the purview of their civil and political rights, was facilitated. ...

The legal and aboveground democratic movement, composed of various organizations [like the Ifugao Peasant Movement] are “red-tagged” or falsely accused as front organizations of the CPP-NPA. In 2015, agents of the AFP accused Brandon and other IPM members of being supporters and members of the CPP-NPA.

This step-by-step fascist repression of progressive activist work [was used to warrant] frequent surveillance of Brandon’s residence for weeks before the shooting ... as well as the offices of IPM and Justice and Peace Advocates of Ifugao, of which he is also a member.

[BAYAN] calls on all peace advocates and human rights defenders to seek justice for Brandon and provide the assistance he needs during these very dark times. BAYAN assures its full support to Brandon’s family, friends and comrades in the various organizations he serves.

Brandon’s contribution to the



historically robust and militant struggle of the people of the Cordilleras remain incalculable. His survival and recovery from this brutal state attack can only strengthen our collective fight against tyranny. □

Make the corporations, banks and Pentagon pay climate reparations!

Continued from page 1

although this agreement is only a weak first step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And the current administration, with its unchecked ownership by big business despite Trump’s “populist” veneer, is rapidly reversing regulations on pollution. From methane gas to chemical dumping to car emissions to the Pentagon’s toxic wastes, the U.S. is by far the world’s largest polluter.

On the one hand, we have a U.S. government bought by and bound to capitalist profit — to hell with humanity and all life species. On the other hand, there are these two workers’ states, Cuba and China, that are proving that planned socialist economies are able to put people ahead of profits — and that must include the health of the planet.

The engine that drives climate crisis is capitalism — a system incapable of planning for anything that could diminish the profits of the class that owns the means of production. The markets for stocks and bonds move up and down according to profit projections. Profits for the 1% take precedence over everything else, even if that means killing the earth and its peoples.

The solution to this crisis is socialism, in which public ownership of the means of production enables society to carry out long-term planning for the good of the 99% of humanity and the survival of the planet. For youth especially, which system will control the future is a pressing question.

An immediate demand: climate reparations

Clearly, overturning capitalism is necessary to end the climate crisis. But what action is possible now, here inside the belly of the beast, while we pursue the road to socialism?

We can demand and strike now for climate reparations. The climate criminals must immediately pay billions. These are Big Business — the polluting corporations and the banks that finance environmental destruction — and Big War — the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex that wage war for oil and profit. Fighting for reparations would be a significant pushback against capitalism while we struggle for system change.

Reparations must go to Indigenous peoples globally, who have been in the lead to protect the planet while facing centuries of depredations on their lands and lives. Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people especially should be recognized for their leadership in organizing

for the life of the globe — from Standing Rock in the U.S. to Brazil, India and Honduras.

Reparations must address environmental racism aimed at people of color in the Global South, as well as in the U.S.—from the Black and Brown people inundated by corporate hog farm waste during hurricanes in North Carolina, to African-American communities, like Uniontown, Ala., used as dumping grounds for the debris of coal-fired plants.

Reparations must go to whole countries devastated by U.S. war and sanctions for oil and profit—against Iran, North Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Venezuela—and to compensate for the economic sabotage and efforts at regime change waged by the U.S., including Cuba and Central America. The impact of many of these wars has

produced refugees, including climate refugees who can no longer sustain life in their homelands.

For years, Big Business and Big War have seen the climate crisis approaching and have been drawing up their own, private plans for how to stay in business.

The Peoples’ Power of the Climate Strike has its own plans for the future and can demand billions in reparations owed to the planet by capitalism. Those billions can be put to good use by Indigenous leaders, by organizers in local Black and Brown communities, by workers who unite their struggle against the bosses with the struggle for the environment, by activists and scientists dedicated to learning from the triumphs of Cuba and China.

We must demand climate reparations—to build a global future on the road to socialism! □

Fight the power! Build Workers World!

Workers World newspaper has a point of view. Unlike the corporate press, we report events from the perspective of the workers and the oppressed. But you already know that.

But you may not be aware that our purpose goes beyond passive reporting. Our Marxist-Leninist vision of an equitable, just world based on socialist planning and plenty for all peoples spurs us to advocate in workplaces, communities and streets for drastic change.



Workers World in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. WW PHOTO

That’s why the newspaper has shown solidarity with labor marches all over the country on Labor Day, the first Monday in September. That’s the federal holiday the ruling class “gave” U.S. workers in 1894 to distract us from memorializing May Day. However, May 1, promoted by socialists and communists, is celebrated by workers all over the world, as well as in the U.S., in honor of the 1886 Haymarket strike when Chicago workers shook the bosses with their determined fightback.

Later this month the youth-initiated Global Climate Strike, Sept. 20-27, will draw millions of people of all ages on all continents demanding action to save all forms of life on this increasingly vulnerable planet.

This special issue of WW will be there, discussing strategies to help working people, young and old, wrest the reins of power away from the imperialist ruling class and implement changes that defend the environment and save lives.

It’s essential for Workers World not to be a bystander, but to take action in defense of our Marxist-Leninist principles and beliefs. If you agree, then it’s time to join the Workers World

Supporter Program, which since 1977 has been helping to get out the paper. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends, all for a donation of a minimum of \$75 or \$100 or \$300 (only \$25 a month) or more.

Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate — it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. Know that we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future! □

Nicolás Maduro: ‘They intend to create a conflict with Colombia’

By Marco Teruggi
Caracas

Original published at pagina12.com.ar on Sept. 11. Translation by John Catalinotto.

Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro ended his address to the National Defense Council on Sept. 9, which exposed the existence of a military threat and escalation against his country. He said, “We have the evidence of how they intend to create a false positive to provoke an armed conflict between Colombia and Venezuela.”

The Monday night meeting followed a day of growing diplomatic tension. First, Venezuelan Minister of Communication Minister Jorge Rodríguez presented evidence of how the Colombian press, particularly *Semana* magazine, falsified and disseminated documents in an attempt to accuse the Venezuelan government of collaborating with the National Liberation Army (ELN) in Colombia and the sector of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that resumed armed struggle against that country’s government.

After that presentation, a press conference took place in the afternoon with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza and Rodríguez. The diplomatic corps, which



Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza.

is accredited in Venezuela, was summoned to hear “precise information on the terrorist acts planned to be launched from the Republic of Colombia under the protection of the government in Bogotá.”

Toward nighttime President Maduro met with the National Defense Council. Representatives from all levels of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, public officials and the national cabinet participated in the meeting.

President Maduro, following Article 232 of the Constitution, said: “As head of state, I have passed authority over to the National Defense Council for the collective management of this situation, which is one of a genuine threat of violence, armed conflict and attack by the militarist and criminal government of Colombia.”

In his speech, President Maduro denounced the 42 different covert acts that the Colombian government has carried out in three months. One of them has been, and continues to be, an attempt to “recruit Venezuelan officers and non-commissioned officers with the intention of attacking the Venezuelan air and missile defense system, supported by a group of Venezuelans.”

President Maduro also referred to the orange alert decreed days ago and the beginning of border operations called “Sovereignty and Peace in Venezuela” that will be carried out from Sept. 10 to 28. These are taking place “to fine-tune the entire national defense system, to fine-tune all the mechanisms of the deployment of our country’s military capacity, to fine-tune land defense, anti-aircraft — the coordinated defense of the national territory itself.”

Colombia’s president accuses Maduro

The tension between the two countries peaked following the new escalation that began on Aug. 29 when a section of the FARC announced its return to armed struggle. This was followed by Colombian President Iván Duque’s accusation that Maduro’s government offered the FARC support within its territory.

Two days later on Aug. 31, Rodríguez announced the arrest of a person who was planning to detonate explosives in central Caracas. He also denounced the presence of three military training centers in Colombia near the Venezuelan border. He explained that this individual, along with others, was trained there and then sent to Venezuela.

It was not the first time that the Venezuelan government reported the presence of military training centers in Colombia whose aim is to attack Venezuela. The first incident was the attempted assassination [by drones] of President Maduro on Aug. 8, 2018.

The current scenario is framed within [the context of] a new offensive to attempt the overthrow of President Maduro. Declarations [by the opposition] have escalated in recent weeks — particularly since the decree signed by Trump on Aug. 6 to tighten the economic and financial blockade. [Trump’s decree froze Venezuelan governmental assets.] It resulted in Maduro’s decision to suspend negotiations [with the opposition] in Barbados.

In this context — and in consideration of the demobilization of the [anti-Maduro] opposition at the national level — the Colombian factor gained strength in



President Nicolás Maduro, Sept. 9, denounces Colombia’s aggression.

the manner of a siege on the Venezuelan government. Duque made no comments on Sept. 9 about the statements made [by President Maduro] from the Miraflores Palace in Caracas.

Other external threats against Maduro

Finally, three significant events also occurred on Sept. 9. First, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet read a report which reiterated her concerns about human rights violations in Venezuela, while it recognized the negative impact of the blockade and opposition violence.

Second, there were the words spoken by Elliott Abrams, U.S. special envoy for Venezuela. From Brussels, he accused the European Union of not imposing greater sanctions against Maduro’s government and of being permissive with its leaders.

Finally, it was learned that on Wednesday [Sept. 11], the Organization of American States will debate the request made by self-proclaimed president [of Venezuela], Juan Guaidó, to activate the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. The document puts on the table the possibility of forming an international coalition against Venezuela. The Venezuelan government withdrew from the OAS [on April 29].

The United Nations General Assembly scheduled for Sept. 27 will be a new scenario for diplomatic confrontation. The tempo has accelerated once more. □

U.S. and 11 puppets approve military intervention in Venezuela

By Marco Teruggi
Caracas

Published in Al Mayadeen TV Español, translation by Internationalist 360°.

The United States and 11 Latin American countries spoke out in favor of a possible military intervention against the Venezuelan government. They did so through an assembly of the Organization of American States which activated the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), a 1947 agreement that commits to mutual defense among nations in the Western Hemisphere — that is, the possibility of establishing an armed coalition.

“This decision acknowledges the fact that the depth of the Venezuelan crisis obliges us to appeal to all mechanisms,” said the chief of staff of the secretary general of the OAS, Luis Almagro, who has defended the possibility of military intervention in Venezuela for the past year.

Mexico, one of the countries that opposed the activation of TIAR, published a communiqué in which it affirmed that it “categorically rejects the invocation of the TIAR to intervene in the internal affairs of states because it considers it unacceptable to use a mechanism that contemplates the use of military force.” It also noted that this step “brings us dangerously close to a point of no return.”

The Venezuelan government condemned

those within the OAS who took the step to activate TIAR, including the governments of Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. In a communiqué, the Foreign Ministry stated: “It is necessary to remember that TIAR was imposed on our region by the United States in the framework of the Cold War, and its purpose was to legitimize military interventions in Latin America for ideological reasons. This was the case in Guatemala in 1954, in Cuba in 1961, in the Dominican Republic in 1965, in Grenada in 1983 and in Panamá in 1989.”

“The threat of the use of TIAR — of the use of implicit force in the TIAR convocation — is completely absurd, it contradicts all the principles of coexistence and peaceful solution of controversy and self-determination of the peoples,” said Celso Amorín, former foreign minister of Brazil.

Part of the agreement reached between the 12 countries is to convene during the United Nations General Assembly, which will take place at the end of September, to decide what measures to take. They



Caracas, September 2019. Workers and farmers back the Bolivarian government.

also agreed to report the decision to the United Nations Security Council.

The activation of this mechanism had been requested for several months by sectors of the Venezuelan opposition that insist the only way to obtain political power is through a foreign military intervention, an invasion of a mercenary army from outside or an internal coup by a sector of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB). The opposition includes, for example, María Corina Machado, Antonio Ledezma, and the right-wing gang gathered in Miami.

Juan Guaidó, for his part, had

attempted to maintain a position of balance between the parties, proposing that all options were open, from dialogue to TIAR, as long as he achieves his objectives, condensed in the following formula: cessation of usurpation [meaning President Nicolás Maduro has to resign], transitional government, free elections.

Guaidó’s problem was that he never decided on what steps to take: the leadership always came from the United States and, to a lesser extent, from his Popular Will party, which he was not a leader of when he proclaimed himself president.

Continued on page 10

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

Reparations for Bahamian climate refugees

The callous, white-supremacist response of Trump to the plight of tens of thousands of Bahamians was recently recognized by one of today’s most high-profile athletes.

Klay Thompson is considered one of the greatest shooters in the history of the National Basketball Association and is a three-time NBA champion with the Golden State Warriors. Thompson’s father, Mychal, a two-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers, migrated from his native Bahamas to the U.S. in the late 1970s.

Klay Thompson wrote the following on his Instagram thread Sept. 13 regarding

Trump’s racist response to the total devastation that Hurricane Dorian caused in the islands: “[S]hame on our current administration for not welcoming our Bahamian neighbors in their greatest time of need. I’ve been so lucky to visit my family in Nassau since childhood, and in those times I’ve seen countless Americans use the Bahamian islands as their playground for letting loose and vacationing. And now we turn our back on the people who welcomed us with open arms, when they’ve lost everything?! There’s no excuse for this ... and if you have one you’re a real piece of shit.”

Thompson is referring to Trump’s

public labeling of Bahamians as criminals and his declaration that no U.S. borders will be opened to these islanders who have lost their homes, loved ones and livelihoods.

Even before the hurricane, the vast majority of Bahamians, a large number of them Haitian migrants, lived below the poverty line. Out of a total population of over 403,000 people, 70,000 Bahamians have lost everything due to the Category 5 storm, another of an increasing number of climate catastrophes. (CNN, Sept. 12)

The official death toll is 50, but it’s expected to rise significantly, since at least 1,300 people are still missing. The

cost of damage to tourist-industry-dominated Bahamas is an estimated \$7 billion.

The people of the Bahamas deserve reparations not only for what they are going through now, but for decades of super-exploitation of their labor and resources. Over the past year alone, the Bahamian tourist industry raked in revenues of \$5.7 billion, half of the gross domestic product of the Bahamas. (Reuters, Sept. 15)

It is long overdue for corporate investors, made rich off of this suffering, to pay off this debt. As for the racist U.S. administration: Open the borders now! □

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

The crime against Afghanistan

It’s the longest U.S. war ever. And no one in the ruling U.S. imperialist establishment can explain why it continues.

Before Trump recently claimed he was for withdrawing at least some of the thousands of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, similar promises were made by previous U.S. presidents, Democrats and Republicans. But the U.S. occupation never ended.

Nearly 4,500 U.S. youth have died and thousands have been grievously wounded there. Some survivors are starting to ask questions about why they were sent to Afghanistan in the first place.

Many, many more Afghans have suffered even worse fates in this unequal war, including babies, small children, wedding parties and farmers working in their fields. Land mines are everywhere. Drones overhead in Afghanistan — unable

to tell the difference between a wedding party and a gathering of fighters — are called in for murderous air strikes from bases from the U.S. West to Afghanistan itself.

The war has cost U.S. taxpayers over a trillion dollars. Its cost to the Afghan people is incalculable.

Why did it start? Because the U.S. ruling class couldn’t stand the fact that in 1978 — more than 40 years ago! — a revolution succeeded in Afghanistan, led by a progressive party that was friendly with the Soviet Union.

The revolution was precipitated by the fact that Nur Muhammad Taraki, leader of the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan, had been thrown in jail by a reactionary government backed by the U.S. In response to Taraki’s arrest, rank-and-file soldiers and workers broke down

the jail doors and freed him — which began the end of the government favored by Washington.

Then a revolutionary government headed by the PDPA lasted a little over a decade. But in that short time, it abolished the debt of peasants to rich landlords, distributed land to the peasants and set up collective farms, established schools for both girls and boys, eliminated the “bride price” and declared equal rights for women, among other reforms.

At that time the Cold War with the Soviet Union was the priority for Washington. So within a year of the progressive Afghan revolution, the U.S. was scheming for its overthrow. The CIA secretly armed and financed an attempted counterrevolution led by dispossessed landlords. This drew the USSR, an ally of the Taraki government, into the conflict.

That was the origin of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, which continues to this day, even though the USSR is long gone.

Washington today claims to be for women’s rights in Afghanistan, and must stay there to protect the people against reactionary Islamist forces. That’s sheer hypocrisy! It was the U.S. that empowered such forces in the first place, in order to use them against the USSR.

Equally monstrous is the track record of the powerful U.S. capitalist media, which continue to suppress knowledge of Washington’s real role in Afghanistan and instead present the Pentagon and all its highly paid contractors as an instrument for progress.

It’s time to reveal the truth — and to end 40 years of the U.S. war on Afghanistan. □

U.S. and 11 puppets approve military intervention in Venezuela

Continued from page 9

And the directions given by the United States are marked by questions following the dismissal of John Bolton as security advisor. His exit took place in a framework of disagreements with Donald Trump on several conflicts, such as North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan and in particular Venezuela, where the president stated that Bolton had “crossed the line.”

Bolton’s dismissal came at a time of greater tension between Venezuela and Colombia, in a scenario where Nicolás Maduro said that the government of Ivan Duque seeks to activate “a false positive

to create an armed conflict” between the two countries. Bolton, as he expressed in different open geopolitical disputes, was in favor of a forceful solution in the case of Venezuela and was in charge of publicly attacking the dialogues in Barbados mediated by Norway.

The escalation of tension between the two countries was denounced by Maduro as a principal route used by the United States and the Colombian and Venezuelan right to reach a scenario that could provoke a military clash. Was that the line Bolton crossed? Trump did not specify and did not respond to the possibility of meeting with the Venezuelan president.

The policy against Venezuela will continue to be carried out by men like Elliott Abrams and Mike Pompeo, along with the new acting security advisor, Charles Kupperman, advisor to former President Ronald Reagan between 1981 and 1989 and second in command under Bolton.

Meanwhile, the head of foreign policy of the European Union, Federica Mogherini, spoke in the framework of her tour of Cuba, Mexico and Colombia in favor of the resumption of dialogue between the two countries. Her statement was given while TIAR was being activated, which brought into clear view the two contending lines: one that insists

on an overthrow by military action and one that is committed to dialogue in order to reach an agreement.

The U.N. General Assembly will be the next arena where siege diplomacy against Venezuela will play its hand. Both in the sphere of TIAR, and the positions of Duque and Maduro, who will confront each other: the first affirming that Venezuela protects the Colombian guerrillas; the second pointing out that Colombia seeks to fabricate a war where there are already covert actions and for which the Venezuelan government has mobilized the Bolivarian Armed Forces in border exercises. □



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Oakland, Calif.

Black community fights diabolical scheme to push them out

By **Dave Welsh**
Oakland, Calif.

Led by the dockworkers union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, Oakland's Black community is organizing to stop a baseball stadium project from further gentrifying the city and pushing longtime Black residents out.

"The Black community is under siege," ILWU Local 10 organizer Derrick Muhammad told a recent meeting of the East Oakland Stadium Alliance, "by forces that would like to relocate the Oakland Athletics from the existing

Coliseum park in East Oakland to Howard Terminal in rapidly gentrifying West Oakland — and drive us out.

"This is emanating from City Hall, from real estate developers, from the Fisher family that owns the Gap clothing chain ... and from a police department that's working in tandem to drive Black people out."

Speaking at the influential Acts Full Gospel Church, Muhammad asked, "Why are they building a light rail down East 14th Street in East Oakland? Did any of you ask for that? It reminds me of 50 years ago when they destroyed our thriving West Oakland Black community — pushing us out so they could build BART stations, railroad tracks and a huge postal facility smack dab in the middle of our neighborhood — followed by the loss of factory jobs, the introduction of crack cocaine and a wrecking ball for our homes and mom-and-pop stores.

"Now they are promising 6,000 permanent jobs at a new ballpark, hoping to convince a marginalized, oppressed community to support their project," said Muhammad. "Ask yourself, 'How does 82 home games produce 6,000 jobs?' This is a land grab by the rich. This is the de-industrialization of another major urban center, like they did to Detroit. They even want to grab Howard Terminal, which is part of the working port of Oakland."

Danny Glover, actor and activist, whose postal worker family also experienced being pushed out of housing by greedy developers in the San Francisco Bay Area, told the church gathering: "We've seen too much. We know too much. There was a time when Oakland was 50 percent Black. Now people are living in tent

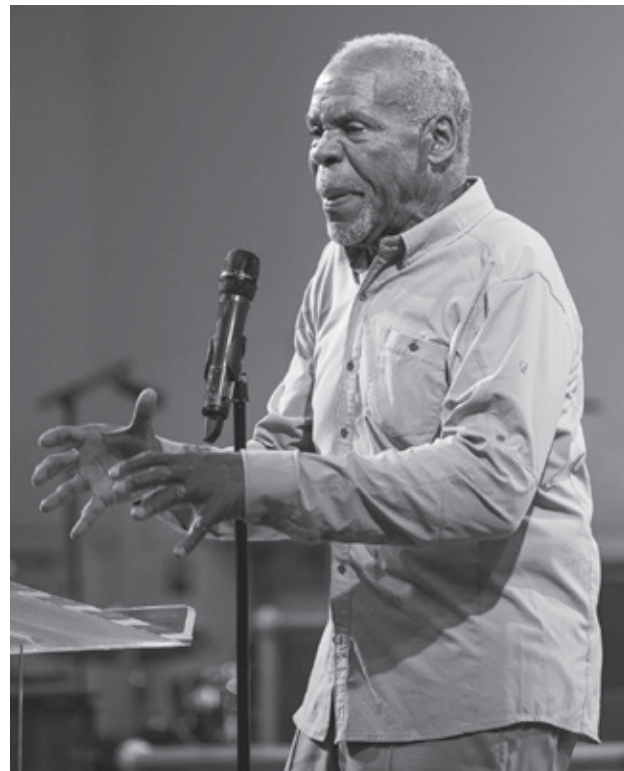


PHOTO: PHIL MEYER

Danny Glover speaking at Sept. 15 ILWU-led meeting in Oakland, Calif., to protest gentrification.

cities. Renters are being forced out.

"The carpetbaggers are coming in, and schools are being privatized. We don't need more playgrounds for the rich, treating Black people as expendable. We've got to fight. We have to take our stand and defeat this new scheme by the rich to steal the people's land." □



PHOTO: PHIL MEYER

ILWU Local 10 group performs at community meeting in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 15.

Real estate barons' attack on tenants spurs fightback

By **Jim McMahan**
Seattle

Landlord-in-chief President Donald Trump dispatched top federal officials to Los Angeles on Sept. 10 to organize a crackdown on homelessness, which has been caused by gentrification. His administration cruelly aims to use unilateral federal force against homeless people in Los Angeles and throughout the state of California.

This plan highlights the harm the real estate industry has caused poor and working people, both housed and unhoused. In New York, Los Angeles, Seattle and cities across the U.S., the multinational working class is under siege. Workers are being displaced by skyrocketing rents imposed by big real estate.

Rents have more than doubled in the past two decades, while wages remain stagnant. There is not a U.S. county where a full-time minimum-wage worker can afford rent for an average two-bedroom apartment. Rent burdens in African-American neighborhoods average 44 percent of a household's income, while in Latinx neighborhoods, it is 48 percent.

In response to this assault, rent control is becoming a working-class demand across the country, with noteworthy struggles in New York and California and the beginning of one in Seattle. In the spring, demonstrators won legal protection for tenants after blocking the New York State Legislature's doors to demand rent control and tenant rights.

As manufacturing industries have left many big cities, industrial capital has been replaced by real estate capital, which

is more profitable these days. Global real estate was worth \$217 trillion in 2015, said Savills, a global British real estate advisory company in January 2016. It makes up 60 percent of the world's assets. Residential property is worth 75 percent of the value of global property.

Home ownership in the U.S. is at a 50-year low. In fact, 37 percent of home sales were to absentee investors in 2016. Hedge funds and private equity firms, like Blackstone, the world's biggest landlord, are major buyers. Today, real estate and high finance interests are very closely linked.

Workers lose homes, the rich get bailouts ...

Since the recession of 2008, 10 million working-class households in the U.S. have lost their homes due to mortgage foreclosures and evictions. Those who lost houses were disproportionately Black and Latinx. But while workers lost homes, the federal government bailed out the banks or compensated them for the full amount of toxic, bloated mortgage loans.

The current wave of rent destabilization, homelessness and racist removals of Black and Latinx residents is reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath during the George W. Bush administration. The New Orleans public school system was closed down and replaced by charter schools. Public school teachers, many with years of experience, were replaced. Public housing was shut down and so was Charity Hospital. To this day 100,000 people, many of them Black, have been unable to return.

Meanwhile, the Department of

Homeland Security is going into immigrant communities around the country, seizing people to deport and ripping their families apart. DHS forcibly evicts workers just like landlords and police officers.

... and massive tax breaks

The Trump administration is spurring on gentrification with its misnamed "opportunity zones" program — which grants massive tax breaks to the rich. It was inserted into Trump's 2017 tax "reform" — tax cuts for the rich — bill. Advertised as a chance to pump construction money into poor neighborhoods, the opportunity zones would supposedly gain new housing, businesses and jobs.

But the benefits of the opportunity zones will go to rich investors like Pershing Square Capital, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and financier Anthony Scaramucci, a chief promoter of the plan. Over 200 opportunity zone plans have been designed for real estate companies and banks, such as Goldman Sachs. No surprise: They are all exempt from paying federal taxes on their profits. This is a reason why Wall Street supports Trump's presidency.

The money is already flowing for 8,000 opportunity zones. But since the investment is mostly for luxury housing, such as condominiums and hotels, it is promoting increased rents in poor neighborhoods, while providing few jobs. It's another attack on poor and working-class communities.

Seattle vs. big realtors

In Seattle, as in other cities, luxury real estate represents 95 percent of new, private housing. There, as elsewhere,

capital flows to the most profitable areas for investment. The city is overshadowed by 45 Amazon company towers in the downtown area, which dominate this real estate market.

Rents there have shot up 155 percent since 1998 to an average monthly cost of \$2,000. Seattle's character has been altered due to the escalating rents and evictions. There has been an exodus of working-class and oppressed people. African Americans, who comprised 12.3 percent of the population, now make up only 7 percent of the city's residents.

Meanwhile, due to outrageously high rents and low wages, homelessness has increased. There are over 11,000 people living in tent camps, with a disproportionate number African Americans, who comprise one-third to one-half of them. In this war against the homeless, they live under constant threat from city bulldozers and excavation equipment.

But the fightback is growing. Community and tenant organizations are organizing for rent control in Seattle and in Washington state. African-American churches are working to get more affordable housing built in their communities without big real estate's involvement. City Councilperson Kshama Sawant is campaigning against Amazon and other corporate realtors.

Workplace organizing by labor unions has the potential to reach even further into apartment buildings and housing complexes to push this demand. It is becoming clearer that capitalism is unworkable for the majority of working and oppressed people and must be abolished. □



Quito, Ecuador, marzo 2019.

Tres perspectivas juveniles sobre crisis climática

Por Lizy RD

La crisis climática se cierne como la Parca para todos nosotros, especialmente los jóvenes. Hemos nacido en esta crisis. Muchos de nosotros estamos creciendo en miedo y ansiedad por lo que nos sucederá en unos pocos años.

Este miedo es tan fuerte y abrumador que la gente incluso comenzó a llamarlo “desesperación climática”.

En respuesta, muchos toman decisiones individuales, como hacerse vegano o compartir el viaje para reducir las emisiones. Si bien tales esfuerzos e intenciones son encomiables, debemos reconocer que estos actos individuales no son ni pueden ser suficientes.

Y, en última instancia, se culpa a la gente pobre y de la clase trabajadora de la crisis, que es un acto inflamatorio por parte de la clase capitalista, quien es la responsable de esto. Solo 100 corporaciones petroleras fueron responsables del 70 por ciento de las emisiones mundiales de dióxido de carbono. La magnitud de esta destrucción es garantizar que la riqueza pase a cada vez menos manos.

Debemos reconocer que el capitalismo es responsable de esta crisis. Un sistema económico que prioriza las ganancias sobre todo significa que los capitalistas ven



PHOTO: RNZ

Jóvenes se unen contra el cambio climático en el centro de Londres, febrero de 2019.

los recursos naturales, los ecosistemas y los animales de nuestra tierra como desechables.

Eso también incluye a las personas, ya que el gobierno de Bolsonaro en Brasil deja que el Amazonas se queme y deja morir a los indígenas. Tal como está actualmente, los pobres negros, indígenas, latinos y personas de color verán las peores consecuencias de esta crisis, como calor extremo, escasez de agua y pérdida de costas, mientras que los blancos ricos tendrán los medios para escapar de

ella. Esto no es una conjetura: proviene de la boca de los científicos del clima y sus informes.

Greta Thunberg, una joven de Suecia se ha convertido en una figura prominente últimamente, después de haber inspirado un movimiento de estudiantes que promueve huelgas todos los viernes en todo el mundo para enfrentar la crisis climática. Thunberg asistirá a las huelgas climáticas que comenzarán el 20 de septiembre en la ciudad de Nueva York, así como a la Cumbre Climática de la ONU de 2019. Ella ha pedido desobediencia civil y que los políticos “tomen la ciencia en serio”.

Su movimiento constituye un punto de partida fantástico, ya que las huelgas son una de las herramientas más efectivas de las personas. Lo que haría su movimiento aún más fuerte sería abrazar el derrocamiento del capitalismo.

NO ES DEMASIADO TARDE. Todavía podemos cambiar la dirección de esta crisis global. Los jóvenes necesitan movilizarse para enfrentar la crisis climática. Nosotros, la clase trabajadora, podemos derribar a la clase capitalista. Este mundo pronto será nuestro, y depende de nosotros llevarlo a un futuro donde el capitalismo ha sido abolido y lo peor de la crisis climática ha sido mitigada. □

Miles obligados a huir de Bahamas Más víctimas del cambio climático

Por G. Dunkel

9 de septiembre – Cuando el huracán Dorian se detuvo en Gran Bahamas y las Islas Abacos durante casi 40 horas el 1 y 2 de septiembre, con velocidades de viento sostenidas de 185 millas por hora, dejó montones de casas y edificios reducidos a leña y escombros, junto con una cifra de incalculable de muertes.

Dorian no dejó tiendas de comestibles, ni estaciones de servicio, ni electricidad, ni agua, ni alimentos, ni saneamiento, ni servicios de teléfono o internet para miles de personas. Después de una semana, solo se han restaurado servicios muy limitados. Los equipos de rescate no habían llegado a algunas de las comunidades más remotas de las Islas Abacos hasta el domingo 8 de septiembre.

El carácter extremo de Dorian indica que la crisis del cambio climático ha hecho que los huracanes sean más cálidos, húmedos y lentos, causando aún más destrucción. Los países pequeños como las Bahamas, incluso si pueden hacer que su huella de carbono sea negativa, tienen poca influencia sobre el clima del mundo.

Los países pequeños no pueden cambiar las condiciones que el sistema capitalista ha creado en todo el mundo. Ciertamente tienen derecho a exigir refugio de la destrucción de la tormenta y la ayuda de las grandes potencias capitalistas que están devastando el medio ambiente mundial. Este es un problema para el movimiento progresista aquí en los EE. UU.

Migrantes haitianos fuertemente golpeados

Mientras que todas las comunidades en Marsh Harbour, una gran ciudad en las Islas Abacos, sufrieron daños sustanciales, la comunidad de Marsh Harbour llamada “The Mudd”, donde vivían muchos inmigrantes haitianos, muchos de ellos



Esta imagen aérea muestra las casas aplastadas y los escombros de una región en Abaco, Bahamas, que fue el hogar de muchos migrantes haitianos.

sin documentos, fue completamente demolida. No quedó una sola casa en pie.

El primer ministro bahameño, Hubert Minnis, hablando a través de un intérprete criollo, trató de tranquilizar a los haitianos que esperaban un barco para ir a Nassau, la capital de las Bahamas, de que el gobierno los trataría de manera justa. Esta fue una venta difícil, ya que en 2018 las Fuerzas Reales de Defensa de las Bahamas ayudaron a deportar a 1.172 haitianos.

El Movimiento de la Red de Acción Familiar de Miami, junto con varias organizaciones de la comunidad haitiana, escribieron una carta abierta al Primer Ministro Minnis, pidiendo “una moratoria de todas las deportaciones y abstenerse de pedirles sus permisos de trabajo cuando las familias inmigrantes buscan ayuda”.

Ayuda de Cuba, China

Varios países están en proceso de enviar ayuda a las Bahamas. Según Telesur English, Cuba envió de inmediato a 60 médicos y maestros para ayudar. Permanecerán el tiempo que sea necesario.

La Cuba socialista tiene mucha experiencia en minimizar el peligro para su pueblo de tormentas intensas. Es reconocido internacionalmente por su capacidad de reubicar a las personas lejos de la costa cuando se acerca un huracán. Cada familia está emparejada con otra familia tierra adentro, que los protege hasta que sea seguro regresar a casa.

China se está preparando para realizar una importante inversión en la infraestructura en las Bahamas y ayudará con los esfuerzos de recuperación. Caricom, la Comunidad del Caribe, ha tenido presencia en las Bahamas incluso antes del golpe de Dorian.

Los países imperialistas con colonias en el Caribe (Francia, Gran Bretaña, los Países Bajos, Estados Unidos) han prometido dinero y enviado equipos de rescate.

Aunque los comunicados de prensa de las agencias del gobierno de EE.UU. han promocionado su asistencia durante la catástrofe climática, los esfuerzos realizados y el dinero gastado son lamentablemente pequeños en comparación con el

enorme presupuesto del Pentágono para guerras e intervenciones en nombre de los especuladores imperialistas de EE.UU.

Florida y las Bahamas

Florida solo se convirtió en parte de los EE.UU. en 1821. Mientras existía la esclavitud allí, las personas esclavizadas huyeron por su libertad a las Bahamas británicas, a solo 40 millas de distancia. Este fue especialmente el caso después de 1834, cuando Inglaterra abolió la esclavitud. Muchos bahameños emigraron más tarde al sur de Florida en los años treinta y cuarenta del siglo 20, cuando desarrollaban sus industrias de turismo y cítricos.

Sin embargo, cientos de bahameños que esperan llegar a Florida después del huracán se vieron obligados a abandonar los transbordadores el 8 de septiembre por falta de visa, un documento previamente innecesario. (tinyurl.com/y3zn9zyt)

El Washington Post informó el 6 de septiembre que se habían visto 26 pequeñas embarcaciones sobrecargadas saliendo de las Bahamas y dirigiéndose hacia el oeste. El primer ministro de las Bahamas, Minnis, ha dejado en claro que la ciudad capital, Nassau, no puede aceptar a todas las personas que ahora quieren abandonar las islas de Gran Bahama y los Abacos.

El total oficial de muertes fue de 44 a partir del 8 de septiembre, pero Minnis dijo que esta cifra preliminar aumentará, probablemente de manera significativa, una vez que el equipo pesado necesario para eliminar los escombros llegue a las islas. Un sitio web no oficial que recoge los nombres de todos los desaparecidos tiene 6.500 entradas. Los informes de prensa anecdóticos mencionan muchos cuerpos dispersos. El horror completo de este desastre aún no se ha revelado. □